

REMARKS

In regard to the Examiner's rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hersey and the rejection of claims 2-6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hersey in view of Moscarello, Applicant submits that his invention, as now claimed, is new and non-obvious in light of the prior art.

Specifically, the board of Hersey uses a pair of tracks 31 and 33 for receiving the respective limiting device 25 and 23 with the limiting devices being able to be positionally adjustable along the length of the track by sliding within the respective track, column 5, lines 51-63. The Hersey device does not teach nor suggest the use of a plurality of discrete opening pairs as claimed by Applicant and no teaching or suggestion for opening pairs if provided by Moscarello. In fact, the use of a sliding track teaches away from discrete opening pairs as they are exact opposites of one another for attachment of stops to a board.

Furthermore, and with respect to new independent claim 15 which incorporates the limitations of original claims 1 and 2, Applicant claims stops that are positionable equidistant and on opposite sides of the latitudinal axis as well as equidistant and on opposite sides of the longitudinal axis. The Hersey device simply teaches stops that are positionable on opposite sides of the latitudinal axis and makes no teaching or suggestion of providing stops on the opposite sides of the longitudinal axis. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's assessment that the Moscarello device teaches stops (ends of 21, 22) attached to the board member for limiting the travel of the board along the latitudinal axis. Element 21 of Moscarello is a guide rail while element 22 is a spacer, the two being provided to allow the roller to remain centered beneath the deck while the board rolls across the roller while traveling strictly across the longitudinal axis. No teaching or suggestion is provided for using the guide or spacer to limit travel of the board along the latitudinal axis as no mention is made of ever traveling along the latitudinal axis. Accordingly, combining the teachings of Hersey with the teachings of Moscarello does not teach nor suggest Applicant's device as claimed in claim 15.

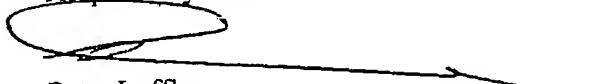
In regard to the Examiner's objection to claim 7 as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, Applicant has introduced amended claim 6 which includes the limitations of original base claim 6 and allowed claim 7.

As the remaining cited prior art is only of an incidental nature, it will not be discussed in detail.

Accordingly, Applicant's invention is new and novel with respect to the prior art.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, therefore an early notice to this effect is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing was faxed to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Art Unit 3764, fax number (703) 872-9306, this 12th day of November, 2004.


Peter Loffler